

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Special Meeting – Budget Hearing #4
September 16, 2019 @ 5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Greenfield
Debra Kraft
John Jackson
Greg Mattingley
Jim Gresham
Laura Zimmerman

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mike Day, Coroner
Lisa Wallace, Auditor’s Office
Carol Reed, Auditor
Sgt. Matt Reynolds, Animal Control
Nick Burge, Environmental Mgmt
Tim Macken, Mental Health
Lt. Tony Brown, Sheriff’s Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tim Dudley

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Chair John Jackson at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of prior budget hearing #3 meeting on 9/9/2019 was made by Ms. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, and motion carried 6-0.

FY18 Budget Proposals

Mental Health Board

Mr. Macken explained that he was there to request the Finance Committee approve an extension of their levy at \$1.5 million up to \$2,662,063. This will be the 10th year at that levy level. The dollar amount on a \$120,000 home would be about \$60 per year. To support the request, he highlighted some important things.

The Mental Health Board’s current operational expenses are at 8.69% of total budget. Administrative expenses have been brought down 6% from the previous year. The state average for Mental Health Boards is 13%.

The triennial focus on the future needs identification process event was held. That event helps identify the unmet behavioral health needs in Macon County. It was done differently this year. Rather than having a big event with breakout sessions and brainstorming at an all day long event, a survey process with over 600 responses was conducted. It dramatically improved the amount of people that were able to give input. At the event itself, when the results of the survey were reported out, there were approximately 300 people in attendance. The event included a guest speaker, Kevin Hines who is an internationally known individual speaking on suicide. He is one of the few survivors who have jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge. He did a very good job, even staying after the event for well over an hour to greet the crowd.

The Mental Health Board has contracts with about 53 services contracted that are provided by 23 different providers. Some additional funding went to providers that were not under contract. These were \$3,000 or smaller and so did not have to be contracted for. That impacted over

6,500 people directly and based on typical family sizes, it is estimated that nearly 25,000 people in the community were impacted.

There is a Child and Family Connections program through a grant with the State Department of Health Care and Family Services. That program, this last year, dramatically increased the number of kids served by over 211. They served 1,211 kids & families in 2019 and it was only 1,017 the previous fiscal year. There continues to be a dramatic increase in the number of referrals. CFC is a single point of entry program for children with developmental delays. It serves kids age 0-3 helping to get them assessed and into services that help them develop. The program funding is volume based so there is a formula and as it goes up, more funding will be provided to get the staff on board to handle that.

There is an online contracting system. Prior to the system, when it came time to sign contracts, there were lots of documents that had to be signed. It is now an online system that requires only one signature. It is a tremendous time saver and makes it a lot nicer for the people contracted with to send voucher so they can be paid.

There has been over a 30% increase in suicides across the country. It is on the rise and we want to be doing something about it. The Board approached the Behavioral Health Center several years ago about funding and having staff certified to provide mental health first aid training. It is an evidence based practice. It is a very good training. In the last year plus, over 600 individuals have been trained in mental health first aid. The goal is to take that much further. Anyone that has opportunity to take it is encouraged to do so. It is a one day long training that provides very useful information and skills.

Pat Berter approached Mr. Macken last year to see if they would be interested in taking over the Juvenile Redeploy Contract with the state. It was applied for and received. It keeps a little over \$300,000 in Macon County and serves this county well. By the end of the year when the grant has to be resubmitted, there are plans to grow it even further and the hope is to keep it here.

Mr. Greenfield asked about raises in the office. Mr. Macken said they had put a 2% raise in place based on available funding.

Mr. Gresham complimented on the well done and very comprehensive report and asked about the people Mr. Macken had spoken about being affected by their services and if they were involved with the Decatur Public Schools. Mr. Macken confirmed saying that Heritage is involved with Project Aware which funds 3 Board of Education Districts in the State of Illinois and part of that grant was to provide first aid training in the schools. So, they partner with District 61 to do those trainings as well. The plan going forward is to reach further. They are trying to get all the teachers trained. Heritage was also just picked to be a pilot to do a new child adolescent mental health first aid year toward training students in the school. It was funded initially through National Counsel by Lady GaGa. It is one of her pet projects. So, there is child & adolescent juvenile mental health first aid and adult. They are both a little different, focusing on what signs and symptoms people should be looking for and what to do in the case they come across someone that looks like they might need mental health services.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the proposed tax levy request on to Display, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 6-0.

Coroner

Mr. Day explained that his goal is to be as cooperative as possible so when the committee makes their judgments, there will be no arguments.

Line 5040—Administrative Asst salary – was \$23,764, raised per contract by \$675 to \$24,439

Line 5410 – reflects the union raise for the non-union coroners. There is a part time and a full time deputy. Those salaries were at \$49,946 for the two. If granted the \$675 raise each, the line would go up by \$1,350 to \$51,296. Mr. Gresham asked about the full time / part time status of the two employees. Mr. Day confirmed, explaining that the part time deputy makes around \$14,000 a year. He said he would not be able to find employees that would be willing to suffer through the terrible things that they have to do. The part time deputy works about as many hours as the full time deputy. The full time deputy fills in when Mr. Day has to be away. So, even though Mr. Day said he is not gone very often, this deputy has a little extra responsibility. He explained he would like to keep the parity there and show appreciation. He said he feels it is fair to treat them equally. He said that the only raise they are obligated to give is to the union employee and it would be up to the board's discretion as to whether they want to give the deputies the small raises or not.

Line 7110, equipment maintenance – was \$2,050 and is being reduced by \$624 to \$1,426. With the new Tahoe the HGB Foundation was gracious enough to purchase and with some other changes, Mr. Day said he felt he could live with that decrease.

Line 7295 – Autopsy Medical Line – was \$34,356 and is being raised by \$21,644 to \$56,000. After a series of conversations with some board members and the auditor, Mr. Day said he was asked to present a clearer picture of what that line actually should be. Every year, the board has to be re-approached toward the end of the year for more money to try to clear up the shortage that is present. These autopsies are very strictly controlled. There has to be a reason. It is statutorily required or are just common sense.

Line 7296 – Drug Related Autopsy - That bloats the picture a lot from what it would be if that money was not in existence. That line was created in response to the opioid crisis. The Buffett Foundation was gracious enough to provide \$60,000 with a very strict guideline that those were only to be used for opioid related, drug induced homicide potentials. Because it is limited use, a lot of the money has not been used. Everybody has to be on board before utilizing that money. When that money is gone, this line will be zeroed out. Out of the \$60,000, there is approximately \$55,000 or \$56,000 left over. That was put into the budget last year. This year, it is going to be moved down to \$10,000 which is a reasonable potential expense. The residual amount of money will be placed in a restricted fund. That money will not be regenerated by the general revenue sources from year to year. When that money is gone, it will be zero. Chair Jackson asked where the figure would be reflected in a fund balance. Ms. Reed explained that it would be set aside as a restricted amount of the fund balance in the general fund. Mr. Day said that if all \$10,000 is not used, the residual amount of that will fall back into the fund to be budgeted again next year. This takes that big hunk of cash that created a balloon type appearance away. If more money is needed, the excess in the residual fund will be accessed.

That brings the departmental request down to \$245,725. That is a little less than it was last year when you look at the figures, but that injection of \$60,000 was really an artificial thing.

Ms. Kraft expressed gratitude and appreciation for everything Mr. Day does.

Chair Jackson commented on the discussion earlier in regard to the raises. Mr. Day said that when he sends the folks out to do a job, it is very difficult, very intense, one that there are many, many, many problems every time you go out. There is nothing easy about it at all. He said he has no problem compensating them and feels that they are worth it and probably much more, but knows where the budget is and they have to do the best they can.

Mr. Gresham asked Ms. Reed about transferring money from line to line during the budget year. Ms. Reed explained that if the money is in the same bucket, it can be done. The 5000 & 6000 lines are in the same bucket. The 7000, 8000 & 9000 lines are in the same bucket.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to forward the budget on to Display, seconded by Ms. Zimmerman, and the motion carried 6-0.

Environmental Management Agency

Mr. Burge explained that the budget is broken down into general fund, department reserves and the enforcement program.

General Fund – expenses are at \$167,000 which is down from the proposed \$213,000 proposed budget. That is a \$46,000 difference. The net surplus is up to almost \$335,000 which is a 64,000 addition.

Department Reserves – Total Expenses are down from about \$86,000 to almost \$35,000. That is a \$51,500 difference. The deficit is up from \$6,500 to about \$14,000 which is almost a \$51,500 addition.

Enforcement Program – Total Expenses are at almost \$45,000 this year which is down from \$66,500 or a \$21,000 to \$22,000 difference. The net surplus is \$2,500 and that is a \$20,500 addition.

With that in mind, Mr. Burge offered to answer questions.

Mr. Greenfield informed the committee that he and Mr. Burge had been working on a plan to recoup some of the recycle costs that the townships create through their recycle trailers etc. There is a pretty good cost associated with that. Mr. Burge added that recently, with the National Sword, our costs to have those recycling trailers tipped has gone up substantially. The monthly bills are between \$1,600 to \$1,800 a month which was much lower than that previously. The plan that is being worked on would be a 3 year stair step plan so that they would start to pay a percentage of their bill for their particular box of whatever they are recycling the first year. The second year they would pay a little more and by the 3rd year, they would be paying 50% for a 50/50 cost share at the end. Mr. Greenfield said that Mr. Burge would be bringing a resolution and presentation to EEHW & Finance with hopes of getting this implemented in the next couple of months. Some of the townships pay very little, but there are about three that really use the system with Long Creek being the biggest at about 26% of the bill.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the budget on to Display, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, and the motion carried 6-0.

Animal Control

Sgt. Reynolds explained that the proposed projected revenue is \$1,229,153. Projected expenses are \$1,295,872.94 leaving a deficit of \$66,719.94 which is equal to last year.

Key activity measures include:

The bulk of the revenue is from the contract with the City of Decatur which went up from last year based on the consumer price index. That was an increase of 1.6% The City contract is projected to be \$611,956.

Changes in line items:

5440 – Civil Administrative Assistant for the State’s Attorney’s Office. That adds \$41,763.04 per year in expenses to the budget and that includes \$27,000 per year salary plus fringes.

7114 – Dispatch Fees Expense - \$25,000 per year. This covers approximately \$25 per dispatch call for after hours dispatch service. Animal Control has their own dispatcher that works Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. , but this leaves us open after hours and on weekends.

Decatur Macon County Animal Shelter Foundation –

5560 – Salary (no fringes) for a vet tech – applicants are being sought. \$31,230 for this brings their total donation up to \$61,413.54

Chief Warden Vacancy – this position will not be filled at this time. Another animal control warden being hired is anticipated. This has changed since this budget was presented at EEHW. The Chief Warden line had been projected to be \$56,654.51. That has been removed. \$25,000 was taken out of that and placed into the Animal Control Officer line to budget for the hiring of a new animal control warden. On top of that, the original budget was showing a \$4,484 deficit which has been zeroed out by removing that amount from the Chief Warden line. That leaves \$27,170.51 which was left in the Chief Warden line to be applied towards that position if it gets filled later.

Chair Jackson asked about the \$60,000 deficit and whether it could be covered through the fund balance. Sgt Reynolds confirmed.

Chairman Greenfield asked about the radios being used at the Animal Control. Sgt. Reynolds said they are ok, but an update could be used in the next year or two. He said that he thought that the Sheriff’s office would be updating their radios and the old radio could be handed down to them. Sheriff Brown confirmed and said that they had even talked about possibly purchasing new radios for them since there are not that many.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the budget on to Display, seconded by Mr. Greenfield and the motion carried 6-0.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Brown informed the members of the committee that he had sent out a summary on the restructuring plan for the department in order to make sure they do their due diligence in being fiscally responsible through attrition in the office. He asked if they wanted line by line detail. Mr. Gresham said they'd already heard the line by line and would like to only hear about the changes made since then.

LEST - 200

Technology line - \$203,000 had been budgeted and has been dropped to \$163,000. The \$40,000 was moved to the overtime line

Pre-employment - 060

7330 – \$2,000 - This line is used to pay for psychologicals for new employees to make sure they are mentally fit and can do the job. That bill used to go to self-insurance. Now, it comes out of this line.

Court Security – the 2% raise was added in. This is keeping with the union contract raise. This money is reimbursed by the Public Building Commission and the most that can be increased is 3%, so it is still good there.

Mr. Greenfield asked about the Court Security was looking to go union. Sheriff Brown confirmed that they are.

Ms. Zimmerman asked about whether the new schedules that had been recently negotiated had been started yet. Sheriff Brown confirmed that they have started and they love it. It is helping moral as well. He said it would not have been possible if the personal patrol vehicle program were not in place.

Ms. Kraft asked about how many lieutenants and sergeants there are now in the department. Sheriff Brown said there are 4 lieutenants. There used to be 7. There are 6 sergeants. There used to be two more in the jail. One retired and one was on 2nd shift. He was brought down and he is Chief of Investigations which replaced the Operations Lieutenant. That was a significant savings. The Corrections Office Sergeant was promoted. There are now three Corrections Sergeants that helped with morale.

Mr. Mattingley expressed appreciation for what the sheriff is doing with the budget as far as leaning down the command or administrative structure in the department. Chair Jackson agreed. Sheriff Brown said they are not yet done and are still working on it.

Mr. Mattingley made a motion to forward the proposed budgets on to Display, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, and the motion carried 6-0.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

CLOSED SESSION - None

NEXT MEETING -

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 for the Special Meeting to prepare for the Display Budget. Presenters will include Circuit Court - Judge Webber, Circuit Clerk – Lois Durbin, State’s Attorney, Auditor, Insurance / Self-Insurance, Retirement, SS, etc. along with anyone else that feels a need to come in.

Monday, September 30, 2019 Regular Finance Committee meeting

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Zimmerman, seconded by Ms. Kraft, the motion carried 6-0, and meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office